



Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program

Individual's Briefing

Protecting the Individual



Threat

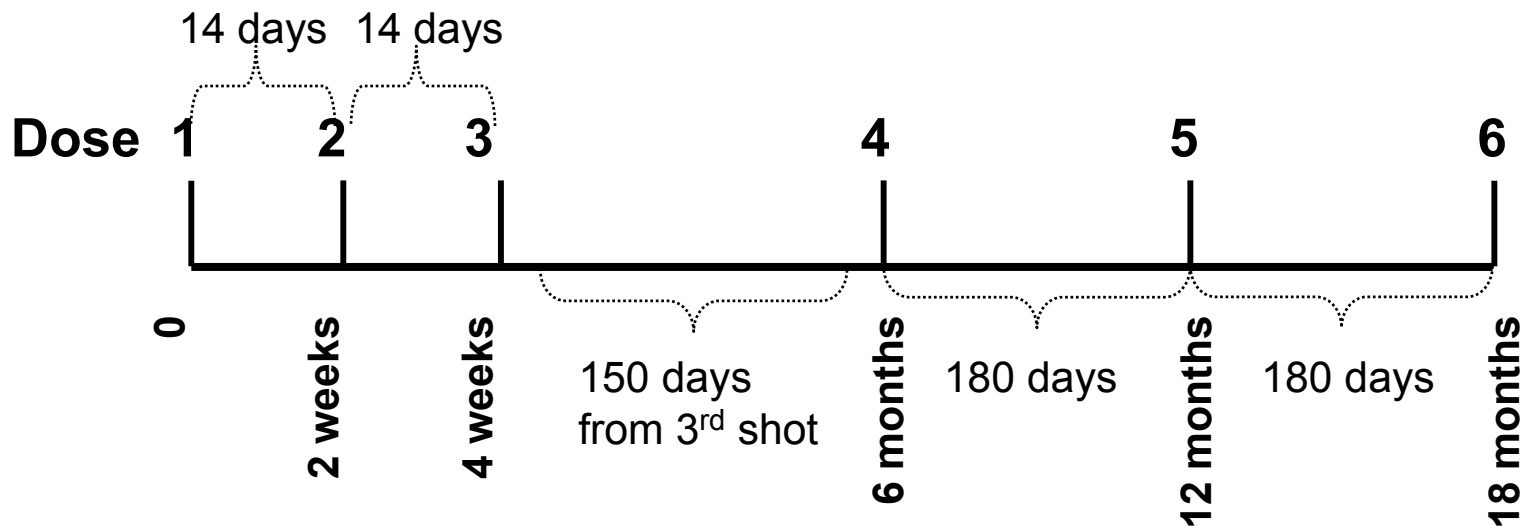
- **Anthrax: the most likely biological warfare agent:**
 - Relatively easy and cheap to produce
 - Can be stored for a long time
 - Can be dispersed in a variety of ways
 - Odorless, colorless, tasteless, difficult to detect
- **Anthrax can cause widespread illness and death among unvaccinated, untreated and unprotected people.**
- **Vaccination is critical for your protection.**
- **This vaccination program is required, except for legitimate medical exemptions.**

Anthrax: Three Disease Types

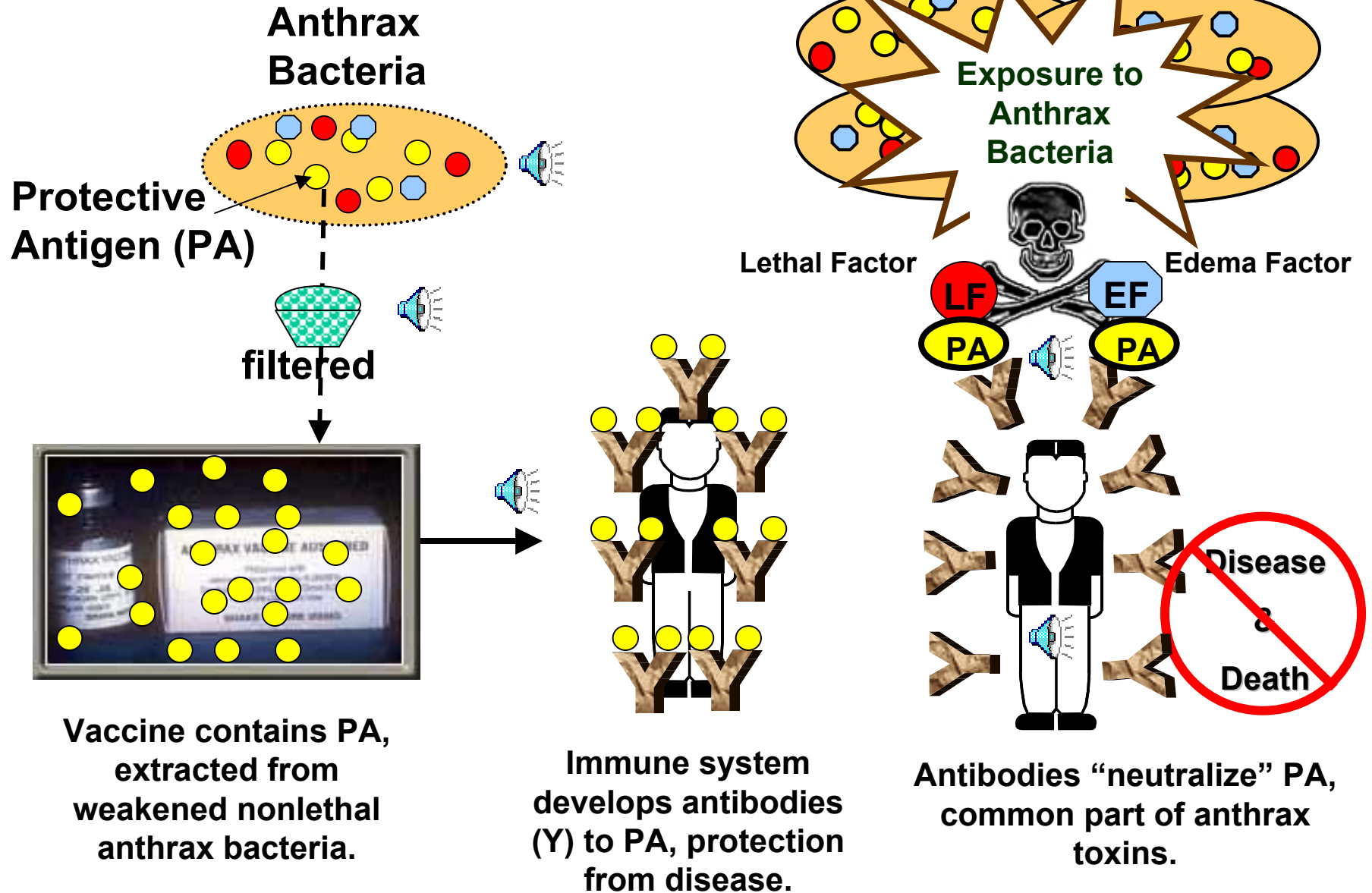
- **Cutaneous Anthrax**
 - Most common form; spores enter breaks in skin
 - Responds well to antibiotics
 - 5% to 20% of infected people die without treatment
- **Gastrointestinal Anthrax**
 - Ingestion (e.g., eating undercooked, infected meat)
 - Severe gastrointestinal symptoms
 - 50% of infected people die even with treatment
- **Inhalational Anthrax**
 - “Flu-like symptoms” early, rapid deterioration, then death
 - After symptoms occur, almost 100% of unvaccinated, unprotected, and untreated people die
 - About 50% die even with intensive care

Anthrax Vaccine Facts

- **Manufactured by BioPort Corp., Lansing, Michigan**
- **FDA-licensed product since 1970; NOT an investigational new drug (IND); each lot FDA approved**
- **Inactivated, cell-free, made from anthrax strain that does not cause the disease**
- **6 doses over 18 months; annual booster:**



How Anthrax Vaccine Prevents Disease



Anthrax Vaccine Effectiveness

- **Human clinical trials in the 1950's: 92.5% effective**
- **Multiple animal studies: 95% protective in Rhesus Monkeys, and 97% in rabbits**
- **Protective antigen (PA) is the common disease-causing protein in all anthrax strains**
- **Blocking PA blocks the disease: all strains**
- **National Academy of Sciences: anthrax vaccine is “an effective vaccine for the protection of humans against anthrax, including inhalational anthrax, caused by all known or plausible engineered strains”**

Exemptions

- **Some people should not get anthrax vaccine**
- **Temporary medical exemptions include:**
 - Short term immunosuppressive therapy
 - Serious acute diseases, injuries, surgery
 - Pregnancy
 - Medical evaluation or condition pending
- **Permanent exemptions include:**
 - Severe reaction after previous dose of anthrax vaccine
 - HIV or other chronic immune deficiencies
 - Immunity based on previous anthrax infection

Anthrax Vaccine Safety

- **More than 1 million people have received anthrax vaccine**
- **Injection site reactions common:**
 - 30% men, 60% women report local reactions
 - Redness, itching, swelling, burning, soreness or pain
- **Systemic reactions (away from injection site):**
 - 5% to 35% of both genders reported; more by women
 - Muscle/joint aches, chills, low-grade fever, headaches, nausea, rashes, fatigue, swelling may extend below elbow
- **Acute allergic reactions after any vaccine, 1/100K doses**
- **Deaths have been reported rarely after any vaccine**
- **Consult your health care provider for adverse events**

Adverse Event Reporting

- **Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)**
 - FDA and CDC review 100% of adverse-event reports
 - Reviewed by independent panel of expert civilian physicians for 4 years
- **DoD requires a VAERS Form submission for:**
 - Loss of duty 24 hours or longer (\geq 1 duty day)
 - Hospitalization
 - Suspected vaccine vial contamination
- **Other submissions are encouraged**
- **Anyone can submit a VAERS Form!**
- **VAERS Forms may be obtained from:**
 - 1-800-822-7967 or www.vaers.org

Reserve Component Adverse Events

- **Adverse events after DoD- or USCG-directed vaccinations are line-of-duty conditions**
- **Someone with an adverse event in a non-duty status possibly associated to any vaccination:**
 - Seek medical evaluation at a DoD, USCG, or civilian medical treatment facility, if necessary
 - Must report the event to your unit commander or designated representative as soon as possible
 - Consider VAERS submission
- **Commander will determine Line of Duty and/or Notice of Eligibility status, if required**

Key Messages

- Your health & safety are our #1 concerns
- Anthrax vaccine is safe and effective
- The threat of anthrax is deadly and real
- Vaccination offers a layer of protection, in addition to antibiotics and other measures, needed for certain members of the Armed Forces

More Information

- **Chain of Command / Supervisors**
- **Military Vaccine (MILVAX) Agency**
 - Website: **www.anthrax.mil**
 - Toll-Free: **877.GETVACC**
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**
 - Website: **www.bt.cdc.gov**
 - CDC National Immunization Hotline: **800.232.2522**
- **Walter Reed Vaccine Healthcare Center: 202.782.0411**
(www.vhcinfo.org)
- **Call your local Military Medical Treatment Facility (MTF)–**
OR–if Reserve Component seeking care at a civilian
facility, contact the Military Medical Support Office
(MMSO) 888-647-6676